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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 18th, 29th and 36th meetings, on 1 and 15 November and 12 December 2012. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.18, 29 and 36). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 8 to 10 October (see A/C.2/67/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/67/263);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/67/316);

(c) Letter dated 10 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the

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Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 (A/67/519).

4. At the 18th meeting, on 1 November, the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/67/SR.18).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.22 and A/C.2/67/L.59

5. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/67/L.22), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, which formed the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

"*Recalling also* the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements as the main outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in 1996, which established the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and adopted a global plan of action to attain those goals,

"*Recalling further* relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and human settlements,

"*Deeply concerned* that the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, has not been sufficient to counter the growth of slums in the developing world,

"*Acknowledging* that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, there are emerging challenges that have greatly increased in significance, such as unprecedented urban population growth in the developing world, the generation of significant levels of greenhouse gases by cities, the adverse effects of climate change on cities, including the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, the growing prevalence of civil conflicts, insecurity and crime affecting urban areas, and increasing social and economic exclusion and inequality,

"*Recognizing* that these challenges may have consequences for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, other internationally agreed development goals and sustainable development, as well as negative impacts on housing, infrastructure, basic services and the quality of life in cities, and

that the urban poor, especially people living in vulnerable situations, including women and children, will be among those most affected by these impacts,

"*Recognizing also* that the ongoing discussions on cities as engines of economic growth and on responding to climate change should not eclipse the fact that current urban development paradigms are failing to address basic human rights in terms of security of tenure and access to water, sanitation and electricity,

"*Underlining* that, in view of the current rapid urbanization process, the development and promotion of adequate urban infrastructure and basic services, as well as effective urban planning and design, are of utmost importance for the creation of socially inclusive, economically prosperous and energy-efficient cities that maximize the benefits of agglomeration economies, minimize the demand for urban mobility and transport and provide the conditions necessary for job creation and urban economic growth,

"*Recognizing* that the major urban changes currently taking place also provide an opportunity to revisit the global urban agenda from a future-oriented perspective and to enhance political commitment towards sustainable urban development by promoting effective strategies that encompass the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, within the context of an integrated and balanced approach,

"*Bearing in mind* the need to review the continuing relevance to sustainable urban development of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and other internationally agreed development goals relevant to human settlements, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want',

"*Noting* the ongoing review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness,

"*Recalling* its resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009, by which it took note of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/1 of 3 April 2009 and, having considered the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on that question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, by which it decided to convene in 2016, in line with the bidecennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a 'New Urban Agenda', which should build on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant

internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits, and by which it decided to consider before the end of 2012 the scope, modalities, format and organization of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), in a most efficient and effective manner,

"*Recalling further* its invitation to the Secretary-General to appoint the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system,

"1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

"2. *Reaffirms its decision* to convene the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) at the summit level in the first half of 2016 for a duration of no more than five days, and in this regard accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of [ ] to host the summit in [ ] 2016;

"3. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

"4. *Decides* that the conference will be called the 'World Summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)', that it will be organized at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other high-level representatives, and that its theme will be 'Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization';

"5. *Also decides* to establish a preparatory committee for the World Summit, which will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of the European Union in its capacity as observer, Habitat Agenda partners, including local authorities, and members of other organizations of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes;

"6. *Further decides* that the World Summit should focus on the identification of accomplishments, new challenges, opportunities and areas where further efforts are needed through the implementation of a new urban agenda that builds on the principles and gains achieved through the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want', and on action-

oriented decisions relevant to those areas, and that should result in renewed political commitment to and support for sustainable urban development and housing, consistent with, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

"7. *Decides* to integrate into the preparatory process for the World Summit the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular those elements that relate to sustainable cities and human settlements;

"8. *Also decides* that the World Summit will result in a concise and focused political document that will ensure a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development while effectively addressing poverty and simultaneously harnessing the economic development potential of cities;

"9. *Encourages* effective contributions from, and the active participation of, all national and local governments and other Habitat Agenda partners at all stages of the preparatory process;

"10. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit shall hold an organizational meeting and three sessions as follows:

"(a) The organizational meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2013, back to back with the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

"(b) The first session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2014, after the seventh session of the World Urban Forum;

"(c) The second session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2015, back to back with the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

"(d) The third and final session of the Preparatory Committee, at which Member States are to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document, will be held in 2016, prior to the World Summit;

"11. *Also decides* that the Preparatory Committee shall undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with the documentation being prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with relevant international organizations on the basis of the results of national assessments and regional preparatory meetings, as well as contributions by Habitat Agenda partners;

"12. *Further decides* that the Preparatory Committee should:

"(a) Have a common approach to support regional and subregional preparatory meetings, to be held in conjunction with meetings of regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, wherever possible;

"(b) Invite the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant intergovernmental organizations who may participate in the World Summit, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice;

"(c) Invite the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may participate in the World Summit, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice;

"(d) Propose a provisional agenda for the World Summit on the basis of the results of the preparatory activities carried out at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, taking into account also the input of Habitat Agenda partners;

"(e) Propose rules and procedures for the participation of representatives of Habitat Agenda partners in the World Summit, taking into account the rules and procedures applied at the Habitat II Conference;

"(f) Undertake any other functions that may be required as part of the preparatory process;

"13. *Decides* that, at its organizational meeting to be held in 2013, the Preparatory Committee will:

"(a) Elect, from among all States, a Bureau composed of ten members, with two representatives from each of the geographical groups, one of whom would be elected Chair and the others Vice-Chairs, and one of whom would also act as the Rapporteur;

"(b) Consider progress in preparatory activities carried out at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, as well as by Habitat Agenda partners;

"(c) Decide, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 10 above, on the specific dates of the future sessions of the Preparatory Committee;

"(d) Consider a process for setting the agenda and determining possible sub-themes for the World Summit in a timely manner;

"14. *Also decides* that the concise and focused political document prepared by the Preparatory Committee should be submitted for further consideration and adoption by the World Summit and that the document should reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to partnership and a higher level of international solidarity and to the accelerated implementation of the new urban agenda;

"15. *Stresses* that the preparatory meetings and the World Summit itself should be transparent and provide for the effective participation of and input from Governments and regional and international organizations, including financial institutions, and Habitat Agenda partners, including local authorities;

"16. *Decides* to establish a trust fund for the World Summit, urges international and bilateral donors and countries in a position to do so to support the preparations for the bidecennial review through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of

representatives of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory process and the World Summit itself, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners from developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the World Summit itself;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend support to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat as the Secretary-General of the World Summit and head of its secretariat;

"18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process and the World Summit, ensuring inter-agency participation and coherence as well as the efficient use of resources;

"19. *Encourages* the United Nations development system to support, as appropriate, national preparations for the World Summit, upon the request of national authorities;

"20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the state of preparations for the World Summit for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

"21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)';

"22. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session an item entitled 'Progress report on the state of preparations for the World Summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)'."

6. At its 36th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/67/L.59), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.22.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59.

8. Also at the 36th meeting, the Rapporteur of the Committee orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59 (see A/C.2/67/SR.36).

9. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Mexico, in the course of which he orally corrected the Spanish text of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.36).

10. Also at its 36th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59, as orally corrected (see para. 13).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, the United States of America, the European Union, Canada and Japan (see A/C.2/67/SR.36).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements[1] and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),[2]

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[3]

Recognizing the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, while noting that slums continue to be a global challenge,

Acknowledging that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[4] and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda,[5] challenges remain, such as, inter alia, the continuing increase of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Cognizant of the fact that these challenges may hinder the work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers, and achieving a safe and healthy living environment for all,

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[1] See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

[2] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

Recognizing that cities are engines of economic growth and that, if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, they can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

Recalling paragraphs 134 to 137 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", on sustainable cities and human settlements,

Noting the ongoing review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat, which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness,

Recognizing that the World Urban Forum is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Italy and the city of Naples for hosting the sixth session of the Forum from 1 to 6 September 2012,

Recalling its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010 and 66/207 of 22 December 2011, which addressed the convening in 2016 of a follow-up conference to Habitat II, Habitat III,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[6] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[7]

2. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on agenda items related to the work of UN-Habitat;

4. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), welcomes the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the conference in Istanbul in 2016, and invites participation in the conference at the highest possible level;

5. *Welcomes* the appointment, by the Secretary-General, of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the conference and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

6. *Decides* that:

(a) The objective of the conference will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assessing accomplishments to date, addressing poverty and identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges, and that the focus of the conference will include, but will not be limited to, the theme "Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization", to be discussed and refined during the preparatory process;

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[6] See A/67/316.

[7] A/67/263.

(b) The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document, which shall reinvigorate the global commitment to and support for housing and sustainable urban development and the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda";

(c) The conference and its preparatory process should take into account and build upon the principles and gains achieved through the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[8] Agenda 21,[9] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[10] the Habitat Agenda,[5] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[11] and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[12] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[13] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[14] as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;[3]

7. *Also decides* to establish a Preparatory Committee to carry out the preparations for the conference;

8. *Further decides* that the conference and its Preparatory Committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

9. *Decides*, while remaining mindful of the need to carry out the conference and the preparatory process in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, that:

(a) The Preparatory Committee will meet three times before the opening of the conference;

(b) The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in New York, for a period of two days, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

(c) The second meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Nairobi in 2015, for a period of three days, taking full advantage of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

(d) The venue and duration of the third and final Preparatory Committee meeting will be considered by the General Assembly no later than at its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014;

(e) The Preparatory Committee, when considering the rules of procedure of the Committee and the provisional rules of procedure of the conference, will take

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[11] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[12] Resolution 55/2.

[13] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[14] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

into consideration the rules of procedure of Habitat II endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/100 of 20 December 1995 and the established practice of the Assembly;

10. *Also decides* to consider the final dates, format and organizational aspects of the conference no later than at its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014;

11. *Encourages* effective contributions from and the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, major groups as identified in Agenda 21, the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other Habitat Agenda partners, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the conference itself, and requests the Secretary-General of the conference to make proposals to the Preparatory Committee on improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the conference itself, building on the positive experience enabled by the rules and procedures of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the inclusive engagement modalities of Habitat II;

12. *Encourages* stakeholders gathered at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, as well as at the regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings, to provide inputs and to contribute as appropriate to the process leading to the conference;

13. *Decides* to establish a trust fund for the conference, and in this regard:

(a) Urges international and bilateral donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so to support the preparations for the conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the Preparatory Committee meetings and in the conference itself;

(b) Invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the Preparatory Committee meetings;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General of the conference, when using the resources of the trust fund, to prioritize the coverage of economy-class air tickets, the daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, and to report on the use of the trust fund to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fifth session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal, for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session, on how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the conference, while promoting inter-agency support to the maximum possible extent;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the completion of the organizational review undertaken by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat;

17. *Invites* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to present to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as appropriate, the outcomes of the governance review process, for consideration by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, and encourages the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue their efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of UN-Habitat;

18. *Welcomes* the progress in the elaboration of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 and its focus areas;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the conference;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".